

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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A-7

1. A quantization method in which quantization processing is applied to data for first and second recording means which record input image data in a plurality of gradations which belong to each of different gradations in almost the same hue, comprising the steps of:
  - inputting multi-value level image data;
  - performing quantization of the image data input for the first recording means to data with a lower level than that of the input image data (hereinafter referred to as first quantization step); and
  - performing quantization of the image data input for the second recording means to data with a lower level than that of the input image data (hereinafter referred to as second quantization step), wherein at least one of the first and second quantization steps performs quantization of the input image data to multi-value data with 3 or more levels, so that the corresponding one of the first and second recording means may record the image in a plurality of gradations.
2. A recording apparatus which includes first and second recording means which record input image data in a plurality of gradations which belong to each of different gradations in almost the same hue, comprising:
  - input means for inputting multi-value level image data;

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first quantization means for performing quantization of the image data input for the first recording means to a data with a lower level than that of the input image data; and

5 second quantization means for performing quantization of the image data input for the second recording means to a data with a lower level than that of the input image data, wherein

10 the first and second recording means record the input image data respectively in first and second gradations according to a quantization result from the first quantization means, at least one of the first and second quantization means performs quantization of the input image data to multi-value data with 3 or more levels and the  
15 corresponding one of the first and second recording means record the image in a plurality of gradations.

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20 3. The recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first and second recording means record the image by an ink-jet system in which recording is effected by attaching an ink drop onto a recording medium.

4. The recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first and second recording means record the image with light ink and black ink.

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5. The recording apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein a size of the ink drop is controlled when the first  
and second recording means effect recording in a plurality  
of gradations.

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6. The recording apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein not only recording is executed by using both of the  
first and second recording means according to a level of the  
input image data, but the first and second recording means  
10 share a region in which both means effect recording while  
both raising recording levels.

5027. A storage medium from which a computer can read out  
a control program which is used for performing quantization  
15 of data for first and second recording means which record  
input image data in a plurality of gradations which belong  
to each of different gradations in almost the same hue,  
comprising:

a first quantization step module for performing  
20 quantization of the image data input for the first recording  
means to data with a lower level than that of the input image  
data;

a second quantization step module for performing  
quantization of the image data input for the second recording  
25 means to data with a lower level than that of the input image  
data; and

an output step module for outputting results from the first and second quantization steps, wherein one of the first and second quantization step modules perform quantization of the input image data to multi-value data with 3 or more levels so that the corresponding one of the first and second recording means may record the image in a plurality of gradations.

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